

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 306

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to commend the members of AMVETS for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable organizations whose members have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS is one such admirable organization whose members evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the history of AMVETS can be traced back to World War II when returning servicemen began organizing independent veterans clubs throughout the country, the purpose of which movement was to promote world peace, to preserve the American way of life and to help the veteran help himself or herself; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, AMVETS petitioned Congress for a federal charter that was granted and signed by President Harry S. Truman on July 23, 1947; and

WHEREAS, today, in recognition of the sacrifices made by all veterans and service personnel, membership in the 1,300 posts of AMVETS is open to anyone who is currently serving, or who has honorably served, in the Armed Forces of the United States (including the National Guard and Reserve components) at anytime after September 15, 1940; and

WHEREAS, membership in AMVETS provides America's bravest and finest with various benefits, including countless opportunities to engage in community service with fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS National Service Officers across the country provide free, expert advice and claims assistance to veterans, their dependents and their survivors, while the national office staff actively follows legislation on Capitol Hill and plays a key role in the enactment of all veterans legislation; and

WHEREAS, through the "Matching Funds" grant program, the AMVETS National Service Foundation donates thousands of dollars annually to help provide VA medical centers with necessary therapeutic and recreational equipment; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS' Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representatives, along with other member volunteers, serve in VA hospitals and devote thousands of hours each year as they visit and brighten the lives of hospitalized veterans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these benevolent programs and activities, AMVETS members participate in a wide range of community service programs, involving scholarships, scouting, substance-abuse awareness programs, blood and organ donation programs, the Freedoms Foundation and Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, AMVETS posts in Tennessee are particularly active; receiving a charter from the National Headquarters in 1968, the members of AMVETS Department of Tennessee are led in their efforts by National Service Officer John V. Patterson and National Service Regional Director James Lunsford; and

WHEREAS, having recently completed a project that funded and erected a Veterans Memorial at each of the thirteen Welcome Centers in Tennessee, Tennessee AMVETS members continue to serve in the four VA Hospitals in Tennessee and in the two State Veterans Homes in Murfreesboro and Humboldt; and

WHEREAS, the members of AMVETS are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the members of AMVETS for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.